

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-10 /083 W

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R 310109Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7757

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UK, CI

SUBJECT: HMG RECALLS AMBASSADOR AS DR. CASSIDY RELEASED

REF: SANTIAGO 8719

1. DR. SHEILA CASSIDY RETURNED TO BRITAIN DECEMBER 30 AFTER BEING DETAINED BY GOC (REFTEL) FOR TWO MONTHS. HER RETURN, AS ANTICIPATED REFTEL, RECEIVED MAJOR COVERAGE FROM ALL MEDIA WHICH FOCUSED ATTENTION ON HER ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES (HMG STATEMENT SUPPORTED THESE CHARGES) AND HMG'S STRONG DIPLOMATIC RESPONSE TO INCIDENT.
2. DR. CASSIDY TOLD PRESS, RADIO AND TV THAT DURING FIRST 12 HOURS AFTER HER ARREST SHE WAS STRIPPED NAKED, TIED TO BED, HAD ELECTRODES FIXED TO HER BODY AND WAS TORTURED BY ELECTRIC SHOCKS. SHE REFUSED TO GO INTO FURTHER DETAIL.
3. FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN RELEASED STATEMENT UPON DR. CASSIDY'S ARRIVAL WHICH STATED, INTER ALIA: "NOW THAT DR. CASSIDY IS SAFELY OUT OF CHILE, I CAN STATE WHAT UP TO NOW WE HAVE DELIBERATELY REFRAINED FROM PUB-
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LICISING. THIS IS THAT DR. CASSIDY WAS TORTURED BY THE CHILEAN SECRET POLICE...NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT CAN ACCEPT SUCH UNCIVILIZED, BRUTAL TREATMENT OF A BRITISH SUBJECT AT THE HANDS OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT." STATEMENT WENT

ON TO ENUMERATE FOLLOWING MEASURES TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THIS INCIDENT:

- (A) "PROTEST IN STRONGEST TERMS" TO GOC AND DEMAND FULL ENQUIRY OF CASE (TEXT OF STATEMENT ALSO RELEASED);
- (B) RECALL OD HM'S AMBASSADOR TO CHILE; AND
- (C) CONSIDER SUBMITTING EVIDENCE ON THE CASE TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION."

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT AS YET KNOW WHETHER HMG IS CONTEMPLATING ANY FURTHER ACTION IN THIS CASE. PRESS SPECULATES THAT GOVERNMENT MAY REFUSE TO DELIVER CHILEAN SUBMARINES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN UK AND DISCONTINUE JET ENGINE SERVICE CONTRACT, TWO COURSES OF ACTION FAVORED BY LABOR PARTY'S LEFT-WING. HOWEVER, LABOR LEFTIST JUDITH HART WHO HAS BEEN PROMINENT IN ANTI-JUNTA CAMPAIGN IN UK, PUBLICLY PROFESSED HER SATISFACTION WITH STEPS ALREADY TAKEN. WHILE WE ARE CURRENTLY UNABLE ASSESS STRENGTH OF ANTI-CHILE SENTIMENT IN PARLIAMENT DUE TO HOLIDAY RECESS, MEDIA TREATMENT OF CASSIDY CASE IS LIKELY TO INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION WHICH IS ALREADY STRONGLY AGAINST PINOCHET REGIME, INTENSIFYING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT FOR FURTHER ACTION.

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